



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES MORE RESULTS IN FEDERAL CRACKDOWN ON INDIANAPOLIS VIOLENT CRIME**

*Illegally-armed felon facing federal prison as part of effort to combat gun violence*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the filing of federal charges against Victor Jones, age 26, of Indianapolis, as part of an expanded federal effort to combat violent crime in Indianapolis. The defendant is alleged to have illegally possessed a handgun as a convicted felon and now faces up to a decade in federal prison.

“This prosecution is part of an ongoing effort to support our local partners in their public safety efforts,” Hogsett said. “Law enforcement works best when it works together, and we are confident that by taking the ‘worst of the worst’ off of our streets, we can make Indianapolis a safer place to live and work.”

According to the indictment, Jones was arrested by Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers, and was allegedly found to be in possession of a Titan .38 caliber revolver. The defendant’s extensive criminal history includes felony convictions related to dealing cocaine, as well as resisting law enforcement. Due to these convictions, he is not legally permitted to possess a firearm.

Public documents and police reports allege that Jones was pulled over for a traffic stop at 2:17am on May 14. Over the course of that traffic stop, the defendant allegedly refused police instructions to place his vehicle in park and exit the automobile. When removed from the vehicle, a firearm allegedly fell from the defendant’s pants. A struggle with officers ensued, in which Jones allegedly violently resisted the attempts to arrest him. He was subdued, and a search of his vehicle allegedly revealed cocaine and other narcotics-related materials.

This defendant's prosecution in federal court is the result of an anti-violence effort launched by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

As part of this plan, Hogsett has authorized federal agents to focus resources toward high-crime areas in Indianapolis. The U.S. Attorney's Office has appointed an experienced lead prosecutor to assist in screening every case involving guns or drugs within these troubled areas. Those cases identified as being eligible for federal prosecution will be adopted by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney MaryAnn Mindrum, who will prosecute the case for the government, Jones faces up to a decade in federal prison if he is convicted, as well as federally supervised release and fines. Federal law requires defendants to serve at least 85% of their prison term inside a federal correctional facility.

This new anti-violence program is an expansion of the U.S. Attorney's district-wide Violent Crime Initiative. Launched in March 2011, the VCI has produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally. In the year preceding the initiative, there were just 14 defendants charged with federal gun crimes by the U.S. Attorney's Office. In the nearly two years since, more than 200 defendants have been charged.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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